

line 2, change "than" to --that--.

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, and 7 - 31 are pending in the present Application. In the above-identified Office Action, Claims 1 - 31 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e), Claims 1-4, and 18-31 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), Claims 9-31 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) and Claims 5-8 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103. Applicant has amended claims 1, 5, 9, 18, 19, 23, 29, and 30, and canceled claims 3 and 6.

For the reasons set forth more fully below, Applicant respectfully submits that the present claims are allowable. Consequently, reconsideration, allowance and passage to issue of the present application are respectfully requested.

Amendments have been made to the specification to merely correct typographical errors. Applicant respectfully submits that no new matter has been entered by these amendments.

The Cited Art

Tsumura is directed toward a system for adding visual accompaniment to a karaoke music system. The visual data is stored in two optical disks for easing frequent retrieval of the visual data. Color is added to the visual data to indicate tempo and position within a song to a user.

Kuo et al. is directed toward a system for adjusting the vocal tracks of a song in a karaoke device to a particular vocal range in

accordance with a user's vocal range. Kuo et al. also disclose the use of monitors to provide body movement information to a user for direction of appropriate user movement in correspondence with a song. Lighting and other special effects are also provided as background for a user to enhance a user's performance.

Okamura et al. '682 discloses a device for karaoke use that maintains a user's voice in tune or in time with a recorded song. Data is accessed via a modem and can be reserved.

Okamura et al. '126 discloses a device that provides images to accompany musical karaoke. The images are changeable so as to keep each performance of a song fresh.

Cahill discloses a method and apparatus for generating a single musical composition from multiple sources at the same time without distortion. The notes and loudness of the notes for each source are separately adjustable.

The Cited Art Rejections

The Examiner rejected claims 1-4, and 18-31 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Cahill. Claims 9-31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Kuo et al. or either Okamura et al. '682 or '126. Claims 1-31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Tsumura. Claims 5-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Cahill in view of Tsumura. Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections.

In making these rejections, the Examiner asserts that:

Cahill discloses the transmission of musical sounds over a network or public telephone line to subscriber's home for a fee. Cahill generally meets these claims as set forth in the preceding paragraph, but fails to disclose the transmission of applicant's video information. Tsumura discloses the transmission of musical songs and corresponding video information via public telephone to a karaoke device. Hence, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to transmit video information in Cahill so that Cahill could be used with a modern karaoke device. (Kuo et al. or either Okamura et al.) discloses a karaoke device wherein musical and video information are transmitted on separate tracks. Tsumura discloses the transmission of separate musical and video information via public telephone to a karaoke device for a fee.

Applicant's invention is directed toward an interactive entertainment system. The interactive information includes music and video information. Stored musical and visual data is transmitted via a network arrangement. Receipt of the data by a user is dependent on a fee paid by the user. Stored data can also be purchased through the system of the present invention. The present invention further includes a Karaoke entertainment system that substitutes visual and/or musical data from multiple and separate users and sources. None of the cited art either singly or in combination teaches or suggests Applicant's claimed invention.

As recited in amended independent claim 1, the present invention provides an interactive music listening entertainment system that includes a storage means for storing a plurality of songs, a selection means for selecting one of the songs, a transmission means for sending the selected song down a network, and a receiving means for receiving the selected song. The receiving means also receives information regarding the cost of the

selection of the song and includes a limiting means for limiting the number of times the selected song can be played. The feature of basing a limit on the number of plays of the selected song on encoding done by the receiving means has been incorporated into claim 1 from canceled claim 3.

Independent claims 5 and 9 have also been amended, similarly to claim 1, to include the incorporation of the encoding feature of the receiving means to determine limits on the number of times a particular selection can be received. None of the cited art teach, show, or suggest an interactive entertainment system that includes such a feature.

The Examiner contends that Cahill and Tsumura teach that entertainment information are transmitted over telephone lines for a fee. In the case of Cahill, the entertainment information is musical sounds, while in Tsumura, the entertainment information is both musical and video information. Applicant fails to see in either Cahill or Tsumura how the fee is used to determine a limit on the number of times the entertainment information can be received. Applicant, on the other hand, recites in amended claims 1, 5, and 9 the feature of encoding the song or video information to determine a limit on the number of times a selection can be played. Neither Tsumura nor Cahill, either singly or in combination, teach or suggest such a system.

With regard to independent claim 10, Applicant recites a multimedia Karaoke entertainment system including a plurality of monitors each associated with a particular entertainment instrument

or vocal track, a plurality of video cameras each video camera coupled to a single monitor, a means for providing the same presentation to each monitor, and a means for substituting one or more of the plurality of entertainment instruments or vocal tracks to an audience. Kuo et al. disclose in column 4, lines 23-44, that video information may be displayed to a karaoke user to instruct on "...hand or arm or so-called body language that coincides with and dramatically enhances the presentation." However, Kuo et al. fails to disclose or suggest the use of a video camera with the display device to allow substitution of visual entertainment from the karaoke user into the video information. Applicant, on the other hand, directly teaches in claim 10 the substitution from each of the entertainment instruments or vocal tracks to the presentation to the audience. Thus, Applicant's claimed invention is not shown, taught or suggested by Kuo et al. or any of the cited art either singly or in combination.

With regard to amended independent claim 18, Applicant recites a multimedia information entertainment system that includes a multimedia call processing system that can receive credit or purchase information and can retrieve program source material to be sent to an interactive multimedia device. Applicant fails to see where, in any of the cited references, such an entertainment system is disclosed or suggested.


In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 1, 5, 9, 10, and 18 are allowable over the cited art and respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejections under 35

U.S.C. § 102(b), 102(e), and 103. Applicant further respectfully submits that claims 2 and 4, directly dependent on claim 1, claims 7-8, directly dependent on claim 5, claims 11-17, directly or indirectly dependent on claim 10, and claims 19-31, directly or indirectly dependent on claim 18, include the features of their respective parent claims while further adding to them and are allowable for at least those reasons set forth with respect to claims 1, 5, 10, and 18.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration, allowance and passage to issue of claims 1, 2, 4-5, and 7-31 as now presented.

Applicant's attorney believes that this Application is in condition for allowance. Should any unresolved issues remain, the Examiner is invited to call Applicant's attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

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